

**Remarks**

Claims 2, 5-8, and 13-15 are now canceled, and new claims 17-22 are added. No new matter is introduced by the new claims.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a reinforcing part having a two-layer structure, in which a first woven layer overlies and is joined to a second woven layer; wherein a first plurality of first warp threads of the first layer is aligned parallel to a second plurality of second warp threads of the second layer; a first plurality of first weft threads of the first layer is aligned at a first angle relative to the first plurality of first warp threads; a second plurality of second weft threads of the second layer is aligned at a second angle relative to the second plurality of second warp threads; the first angle and the second angle are each equal to about 60° such that the first plurality of first weft threads and the second plurality of second weft threads are symmetrical to each other about the first plurality of first warp threads and the second plurality of second warp threads; and

the ratio  $\frac{T_c \bullet D_c}{T_t \bullet D_t}$  equals about 0.5.

Amended claim 16 is directed to a reinforcing part having a three-layer structure having a first woven layer and a second woven layer; wherein a first plurality of first warp threads of the first layer is aligned parallel to a second plurality of second warp threads of the second layer; a first plurality of first weft threads of the first layer is aligned at a first angle relative to the first plurality of first warp threads; a second plurality of second weft threads of the second layer is aligned at a second angle relative to the second plurality of first warp threads; the first angle and the second angle are each equal to about 45° such that the first plurality of first weft threads and the second plurality of second weft threads are symmetrical to each other about the first plurality of first warp threads and the second plurality of second warp threads; and joined to the first and second layers, a third woven layer having warp and weft layers that are perpendicular to one

another; wherein each of the first, second and third layers has a ratio  $\frac{T_c \bullet D_c}{T_t \bullet D_t}$  equal to about

0.33.

In the May 18, 2009 Office Action, claims 6-10 and 13-14 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. In light of the foregoing amendment of the claims, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Also in the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-11, and 13-16 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Claeijs, International Publication No. WO 97/37835 (“Claeijs”). Claims 3 and 12 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Claeijs as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Inoguchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,168,006 (“Inoguchi”). In light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claeijs discloses, at page 2, lines 20-38, a reinforcement material in which a second layer lies at an angle relative to a first layer of between 60° and 120°, preferably between 70° and 110°, most preferably 90° and 120°, and that the warp and weft threads in the layers lie at an angle of 30° and 60°, preferably 45°.

In referring to Examples 1 and 3 of Claeijs, it was stated in the Office Action that the angle between the weft and warp threads was 45° and that the  $\frac{T_c \bullet D_c}{T_t \bullet D_t}$  ratio was determined to be about 0.12.

By contrast to Claeijs, in the reinforcing part having a two-layer structure to which instant claims 1, 3, and 9-12 are directed, the angle between the weft and warp threads is about 60° and the  $\frac{T_c \bullet D_c}{T_t \bullet D_t}$  ratio is about 0.5. Thus, the reinforcing strength of the applicant’s reinforcing part, unlike that of Claeijs, unlike that of Claeijs, is substantially balanced in the 0°, +60°, and -60° directions.

In the reinforcing part having a three-layer structure to which instant claims 16-21 are directed, the angle between the weft and warp threads is about 45° and the  $\frac{T_c \bullet D_c}{T_t \bullet D_t}$  ratio is about

0.33. There is no disclosure in Claeijs that would teach or suggest the applicant's three-layer reinforcing part.

The disclosure in Inoguchi relating to the use of a twill weave, fails to remedy the deficiency of Claeijs as it relates to the present invention. Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of the claims as being obvious over the teachings of Claeijs and Inoguchi is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 9-12, and 16-22 are now pending in this application, whose prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned agent at the telephone number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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